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2004P02891WOUS
Juergen PAUCKER et al.
Appl. No.: 10/552,823

REMARKS

Claim Status

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 6 – 14, and 22 – 30 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 6 – 11 and 13 are amended, Claims 2 – 5 and 15 – 19 are cancelled, and new Claims 22 – 30 are added. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled previously. No new matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 5 – 9 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Claim 5 depends from Claims 1, 2 and 3. By this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 5 and intervening Claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Amended Claim 1 is, therefore, allowable.

Allowable Claims 6 – 9 are amended to depend from allowable Claim 1. Claims 6 – 9 are, therefore, allowable. Further, Claims 10 – 14 depend from allowable Claim 1. Claims 10 – 14 are, therefore, allowable.

Allowable Claim 13 depends from Claims 1, 11 and 12. By this Amendment, new independent Claim 22 is added, which includes the limitations of Claims 1, 11, 12 and 13. New Claim 22 is, therefore, allowable.

New Claims 23 – 30, which correspond to Claims 3 – 9 and 14, respectively, depend from allowable Claim 22. New Claims 23 – 30 are, therefore, allowable.

In view of the amendments to the claims, as set forth in the above listing of claims, and the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 6 – 14, 22 and 30 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner to pass these claims to allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claim 5 because "the concave hollow surface" has no antecedent basis, and because "longitudinal extent" is indefinite. Claim 5 is cancelled.

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Amended Claim 1 includes the limitations of Claim 5, and recites a concave hollow surface of the cross-sectional profile. Claim 1 recites further that the seal has a length limited by ends.

The Examiner objects to Claim 8 because "concave hollow surface" and "transverse end web" have no antecedent basis. Claim 8 is amended to depend from amended Claim 1, which provides proper antecedent basis for "concave hollow surface" and "transverse end web." Amended Claim 8 defines further at least two transverse webs and their arrangement.

The Examiner objects to Claim 9 because "concave hollow surface" and "transverse end web" have no antecedent basis. Claim 9 is amended to depend from amended Claim 1, which provides proper antecedent basis for "concave hollow surface" and "transverse end web."

The Examiner objects to Claim 13 because "the recesses" and "the centering projections" have no antecedent basis. Claim 13 is amended to depend from Claim 12, which provides proper antecedent basis for "the recesses" and "the centering projections."

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 – 4, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nakayama (U.S. Patent No. 5,713,674). Hence, the Examiner asserts that Nakayama discloses each and every limitation of these claims.

Furthermore, the Examiner rejects Claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Numagami (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,500).

Notwithstanding the propriety of the instant rejections, the claims are amended as set forth in the above listing of claims. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass Claims 1, 6 – 14, and 22 – 30 to allowance.

Summary of response

Applicant has responded to the rejections in the April 15, 2008 Office Action by presenting the foregoing arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 6 – 14,

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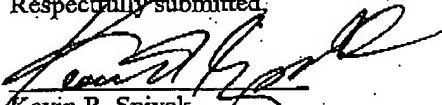
and 22 – 30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw all rejections and to pass this application to the issue process.

Request for telephone interview

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to the objection and to all of the rejections raised in the Office Action so as to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number listed below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502464 referencing attorney docket number 2004P02891WOUS. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: June 10, 2008